

TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL.

By FRANK P. MAC LENNAN.

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FULL LEASED WIRE REPORT
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

The State Journal is a member of the Associated Press and receives the full day telegraph report of that great news organization for the exclusive afternoon publication in Topeka.

The news is received in The State Journal building over wires for this sole purpose.

Cornbread is also liable to be a luxury one of these days, with corn selling at 55 cents a bushel.

This is the time of year when the weather keeps you guessing as to whether you ought to put on your heavy ones or not.

Anyway Fred Magill, who has just been acquitted of murdering his first wife, said nothing about Faye Graham being his affinity.

If the railroad magnates are determined not to build any more railroads, it may be up to the people to go ahead and build some for themselves.

When those balloon races are started in St. Louis this afternoon, will the weather bureau kindly see that there is an east wind? Kansas would like to be on the race track.

Noting the big increase in the profits of the railroads last year, the Lawrence Journal thinks it would like to be ruined the same way President Ripley says the railroads are.

According to the South Kansas Tribune of Independence, Mayor Stieh is not a candidate for governor. We suppose, then, that he is only joking when he pretends to be a candidate.

While Mr. Magill and his young second wife were acquitted on the charge of murder—there being no evidence against them other than suspicion—they were convicted of being indiscreet.

Lillian Russell pronounces the divorce a blessing, and Lillian has had enough of them that she ought to know. Then, again, most of these people who denounce divorces never had one in their lives.

It is said of a new field battery that it "can shoot effectively four miles at an unseen enemy." The crying need of a good many towns, however, is a battery that can put 'em over the plate without being hit.

Wall Street hears about the high price of the necessities of life, but when it sees the bottom drop out of its inflated stock market, it doesn't take any stock in such talk. Its own stocks are the necessities of life to Wall Street.

Since Senator George Tucker has decided to run for congress in the Fourth district, it is quite possible that the Fourth may conclude to change representatives after this year, but it will take strong evidence to prove that the Fifth will do any such thing.

If Governor Hoch calls a special session of the legislature to frame a primary election law under which state tickets may be nominated by direct primary at public expense, will the senate lodge insist on the same hybrid measure that it tried to pass last winter?

Now it is said that W. R. Stubbs is to run for state senator down in his senatorial district. A primary law would prove a great embarrassment for some of Mr. Stubbs' friends. How could they run him for state senator, governor and United States senator all on the same ticket?

Somebody suggests that Fish ought to catch Harriman and swim to the bottom with him, which brings from Roy Tappley the opinion that Harriman is more accustomed to water than is Fish. Is it not possible, however, that Mr. Harriman has used up all the water in his vicinity for his stock?

It will be necessary for the newspapers to use a tremendous amount of paper early in December. Not only does congress meet then, necessitating printing the president's message, but Gladys Vanderbilt's wedding is scheduled to take place immediately afterwards. The paper mills should make due preparations.

Congressman J. Adam Bede, who is a member of the rivers and harbors committee, lectured at the Kansas Wesleyan university at Salina a few evenings ago and said a canal from Salina to St. Louis is feasible. It might be if Salina would guarantee to furnish the water necessary for it as it is needed, instead of turning it loose all at once—as has been done in the not distant past.

Says the Lawrence World: "Ryan wants railroads to take off the limit," says the headline. Must be the headline, for the commissioner thinks he holds aces, a royal flush or something of that kind." And the editor of the World is a good Methodist! Think of

a Methodist using such unregenerate language as that! Sometimes we are tempted to doubt that the world—not the Lawrence World—is growing better, after all.

RIGHT THIS TIME.
In his latest public pronouncement, which was given out a few days ago in reply to a statement made by Attorney General Hadley of Missouri, President Ripley of the Santa Fe utters much sound logic.

It certainly does not seem exactly just, after railroad builders have taken the risks and exercised their ingenuity in opening and developing new sections, to refuse to allow them to share in the prosperity of those sections, other than a bare return upon their original investment.

In other words, a railroad company should be allowed to consider that its property has increased in value just as other property increases in value, and that element should be considered in fixing rates.

It does not follow, however, that the railroads themselves should be the judges in this matter, for inasmuch as they have a practical monopoly of the transportation business, they could make rates unjust to other lines of business—and that is just what happens when the railroads are not restrained. This is a matter that should be passed upon by a commission that is fair to both the public and the railroads, just as our various state and national railroad laws intend.

DENATURED ALCOHOL.
A year or so ago the whole country was talking about the wonderful benefits that would accrue to the farmer following the enactment of the denatured alcohol law, but none of these benefits has thus far been sighted by the farmer himself. The trouble appears to be that hardly anyone has taken advantage of the provisions of the law. Nobody is using waste materials in making it, and the few people who have thought of using it find that it is still too high for general use.

Congressman Murdock was one of those who was most instrumental in pushing the denatured alcohol law through congress, and his paper, the Wichita Eagle, has been looking up some new facts about its manufacture. It is every day, says the Eagle, becoming more evident that the distillation of alcohol for industrial purposes will soon become a very important industry in this country. The denatured article is limited in supply and the demand is growing. Alcohol not denatured and rendered unfit for drinking now sells at wholesale for \$2.31 per gallon. A druggist in this city remarks on the other day that the price that consumers had to pay for pretty much all tax, and there is no tax on the denatured article.

The government has become so impressed with the importance of denatured alcohol that it is urging distillers whose business has been injured in some of the states by prohibitory legislation to engage in the manufacture of denatured alcohol, as very little expense will be required to change their distilleries for this purpose.

When the denatured alcohol bill first passed congress it was feared that the expense of maintaining a government storekeeper and inspectors would make the expense too great for small distillers to pay, but an explanation is given in a late government circular which fully explains this point.

It shows that industrial distilleries are those in which not more than 100 proof gallons of spirits can be produced in twenty-four hours, and in which alcohol for denaturation only can be produced. The distiller must give bond equal to the tax upon the spirits that can be produced at still in thirty days, operating at its full capacity. The proprietor of the industrial distillery is not required to produce 80 per cent of the spirits called for by his statement; if he accounts for all the material used and all the spirits produced he cannot be held for a deficiency. He can operate his distillery at such times as suit his convenience. One or more persons or an association of persons may set up, register and operate an industrial distillery, "that is to say, it may be operated by one farmer, two farmers, or a dozen farmers." The operators of the distillery may have all or part of the product denatured at the distillery for their own use or for local consumption, or may sell it to a central denaturing bonded warehouse. Alcohol, before or after being denatured, may be transferred from the distillery in tanks or tank cars.

Regular distillers do not need any instructions as to the value of different materials from which alcohol is obtained, but for the benefit of farmers and others the government circular gives this information:

"The spirit-yielding material in vegetable matter is its fermentable content. It has been demonstrated by experiment that 100 pounds of the following products of the farm will produce alcohol in the following quantities: Rice, six wine gallons, 190 degrees proof; rye, barley, smelt, corn and sorghum seed, five gallons; Irish potatoes, 1 1/2 gallons; casava, 2 1/2 gallons; turnips, 4-5 gallons; artichokes, 1 1/2 gallons; sugar beets, two gallons; sorghum or sugar cane, one gallon; waste molasses, 6 gallons; grapes, 2 1/2 gallons, bananas, 1-4 1/2 gallons, and other fruits from 1 to 1 1/2 gallons."

"It will be seen," concludes the Eagle, "that if corn costs 55 cents a bushel the corn to make five gallons of alcohol would cost \$1.00 or twenty cents a gallon, which is a good deal less than \$2.31. This, of course, does not include the cost of grinding and distilling the grain, which is not very great. It does not cost very much to run a small distillery. Two men can handle it."

Holton Recorder: The people of Holton have established a reputation as church goers. For the last three weeks, between 500 and 1,200 people have attended church five nights out of the week and many of them have in

addition attended two day services. It was not religious excitement that took them there either, for the meetings, while deeply interesting, never developed anything approaching excitement.

JOURNAL ENTRIES

There is to be no change in hostility the coming season, says a fashion note. Still, it is to be hoped that hostility will be changed occasionally.

Our old friend, Colonel Gaston, advances the theory that a widow can get a new husband whenever she needs one. This department believes a widow can get a new husband whether she needs him or not—in fact, the less she needs one, the more likely she is to get him.

"We have noticed," says the Lawrence World, "that the Topeka papers are mighty dull on the days when they contain nothing about the Topeka city council." Which is equivalent to saying that the Topeka papers seldom have a dull day.

An exchange prints an editorial on the "bad features of the statute of limitations." One of these bad features, not mentioned by the exchange, is that it can be enforced against cold storage eggs.

Dr. Crumblin says water must no longer be sold with the oysters, but we fear the doctor won't have the nerve to enforce his order at the church oyster supper.

JAYHAWKER JOTS

Two men at Sylvia raised 100 acres of melons this year and shipped them east by the carload.

A farmer down near Ottawa killed an armadillo last week. It is supposed the critter had escaped from some circus.

A northern Kansas paper says a man there recently sold a mule for \$2.90 and added: "He was visited by the Democrat office." Now was it the man or the mule?

Gur toters will fare hard in Salina hereafter. The police judge has just fined one totor \$50 and sent him to the penitentiary for warning.

The driver of the Standard Oil wagon at Atchison, who has been working for the company 13 years, expects to get a donation from John D. for a new Christian church in Atchison.

Harry Robinson's \$200 Great Dane was killed by some miscreant in Leavenworth recently and the Post says it has been reading Mr. Shakespeare's piece about "Hamlet" in which another Great Dane was murdered.

A business man at Halstead publishes this little "card" in the local paper: "The Sticks are not dead in Halstead, yet, as one of them has written to the Richards Candy Co. at Hutchinson that I had gone out of business, and another that I could not be found. Defaming my credit. This is one thing no one can say, that I do not pay what I owe. If I find out who has been so kind to me I will fix that head of his so that he will be perfectly willing to keep his nose out of other people's business."

A Coffeyville man who chews 20 cents worth of tobacco a week, according to the Oswego Independent, could chew tobacco for a week and two weeks he ate \$1.50 worth of the cure and for the next two weeks he also consumed two large rubber erasers, ate the rubber tips from four-cent pencils, chewed up a dozen penholders, and browsed off his mustache as high as he could reach. He is now chewing tobacco in the interest of economy.

Ode to the hired man by Walt Mason: When the frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder's in the shock, then the hired man quits his downy couch at half-past three o'clock; and in the darkness he heaves his shirt and shoes, and he swears in gentle accents as he lights his tallow fuse. Sadly then he dons his raincoat, hooks up his mule and harness and he goes down to the kitchen, when he barks his shrilling shins; there he gets his trusty lantern, and he to the repairs, where he curries the mules and puts the harness on the mares; and he carries to the kitchen, for the firewood, cords of logs; and he packs a thousand bucketsful of corn, and he goes to the feed lot, and he milks the cows and he feeds the number seven score—and he's rounding up the chickens as the clock is striking four. Then a wailing sound comes to him: "Breakfast!" cries the farmer's wife, and he hikes toward the kitchen as though running for his life. And the way he heaves the wailing sound in his face, reads the farmer's wife to mutter something touching a disgrace. When the banquet has been ended the hired man takes his hobnob, and he shakes the golden bubblins just as though he worked by steam; and he tolls until the darkness covers everything outdoors, when he goes forty millions chores. His reward arrives on Sunday, when he to the village goes, with a shirt that's fried in fashion, and his foot-clothes; there he meets the village fathers, patriarchs both sore and gray, and he says: "I shucked a hundred bushels in a half day, and I took in the cash, and the fathers gaze upon him and admire, and remark: 'You've broke the record—or you are a sounding lyre!'"

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

[From the Chicago News.]
One way to destroy weeds is to marry a woman.

Hens are exclusive: they like to stick to their own sets.

But the average man is too selfish really to enjoy life.

A church doctor prescribes bark the patient shouldn't growl.

More physique and less physique is what a good doctor has to prescribe.

When a singer's voice fails he is unable to take up his notes.

Wanted—The address of an artist who can paint the signs of the times.

Paradoxical though it may seem, a man who lays up money salts it down.

If a man is a success he knows it; if he is a failure all his neighbors know it.

It's some of the things that children learn in school that they get punished for.

Many a man who covers his wife's coffin with flowers never gave her \$5 for pin money.

It is a lover there but two places in the world—where his sweetheart is and the other where he isn't.

Beware of the man whose debts don't worry him. He would steal your U.S. dollar if he saw it in the vestibule of a church.

KANSAS COMMENT

CEMENT TO THE FRONT.
An advance of three mills a thousand in the price of lumber is announced. The lumber trust is doing its best to encourage the use of cement blocks. The Topeka Journal. And when it comes to cement, why Kansas is going to get in on it, for Kansas cement is second to none. An opportunity to visit the cities where a large amount of construction is being made would show the popularity of cement to be indeed surprising. Fully half of some municipalities are being made of that material, either set up solidly or used in the form of blocks. Tile is made of cement, railroad culverts are made of it, and the railways are using it extensively for bridge piers. The fact of an occasional collapse of a building of this material detracts but little from the increasing favor in which it is held. The trouble is believed to be due rather to carelessness or ignorance in mixing it than to any fault of the cement itself. A Leavenworth contractor who does a large amount of cement work personally supervises the mixing of all that is used for the jobs which he has under contract. It is a responsibility which, he says, he feels, though not upon his workman.—Leavenworth Times

IN OHIO.
Other states are having a struggle to obtain 2-cent fare on steam railroads ought to turn their eyes once more toward Ohio, which was the first state in the Union to pass a law putting passenger rates on the 2-cent basis. The people in other states, who are being handicapped by federal courts, would learn with profit how 2-cent fares in Ohio are being collected. The roads in Ohio they could only see the report of the Ohio railway commission just issued. This report shows that under 2-cent fare there was a net increase of \$1,828,000 in the aggregate earnings, although ten roads show an aggregate decrease of \$55,645. It appears that these lines showing a loss are small roads depending largely on freight traffic; but it does not argue against the success of the 2-cent rate that these ten railroads should show a decrease, because the larger railway systems show a heavy increase. Consequently where the travel is greatest the 2-cent rate actually renders "the greatest good to the greatest number."

It is a warning to the smaller roads against passengers dependent on the smaller roads by compelling them to pay a higher fare. Even these smaller roads will be able to adjust the service to the needs of the country, and there is no reasonable doubt that increase of travel will so benefit the smaller roads in time as to more than make up the present loss. The 2-cent fare, it is believed, will justify increasing service. Ohio is proud of the distinction of being the first 2-cent fare state in the Union, and justifies that pride with the success of the popular rate. The rate even beyond what was anticipated for it.—Atchison Globe.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE.
The jig is up for this year as far as Osborne is concerned in having a good circus. No town west of Beloit will get a circus, and there is no doubt this is caused by the Missouri Pacific charging prohibitive rates for hauling them.—Osborne Farmer.

PROVINCIAL.
General Booth's diet is said to include mushrooms whenever he can get them. If he has eaten mushrooms all the time, it is not surprising that he is so convincing evidence that he has been under the tender care of an over-seeing Providence.—Wichita Beacon.

FROM OTHER PENS

BAD EGGS AGAIN.
A distressing story comes out of Sylvan Grove, Kan.—one of those stories that provoke a shudder and lower the mercury in the spiritual thermometer. Now, at first blush it would seem that any story that came out of a place where 500,000 eggs are raised, and of Sylvan Grove ought to be sweet and innocent; a sort of Arcadian tale, of a spot where sin and deception had never penetrated, and all that sort of thing. But the "gentleman" who writes of Sylvan Grove comes a chronicle of sophistication, not to call it by a shorter and uglier word, that makes one doubt whether such a place as Sylvan Grove is still doing business at the old stand.

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